



Hulda Susan (Smith) Dickinson-Marshall

In 1886 at the age of 5 Hulda traveled to the Verde Valley from Missouri with her parents and siblings by covered wagon. Honoree at the Territorial Women's Memorial Rose Garden at Sharlot Hall in Prescott, AZ

Born: Nov 2, 1881 Missouri

Death Dec 5, 1985 age 104

Burial Valley Memorial Park Cemetery Coolidge, Arizona

Spouse: Frank Lee Dickinson

2nd Spouse: Ralph Marshall

Parents:

Maurice Calvin Adkins "Morris" Smith 1827–1900

Mary Jane Bristow Smith 1842–1931

After Frank's death Hulda married Ralph Marshall. Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey was 8 years of age when Hulda married Ralph Marshall. Helen thought highly of her step-father Ralph Marshall.

In 1930 Ralph, Hulda, Helen, and Helen's brother Frank moved from Cottonwood to Superior, Arizona. Ralph and Frank went ahead followed by Hulda and Helen. Hulda and Helen's trip took longer than normal for the driver kept stopping along the way delivering Mail.

Hulda and Ralph had one child, Mattie Marshall, and 3 grandchildren, Jody, Ralph (Tom), and Susan.

Hulda's great grandchildren Chris, Michael, and Jessica were all born prior to her death.

1973 Hulda and her daughter Alta lived together in Coolidge, AZ.

The Territorial Women's Memorial Rose Garden is dedicated to the pioneer and frontier women who helped settle the State of Arizona. In essence, these women prepared the way for many others to make a life in Arizona. Located in Prescott Arizona at the Sharlot Hall Museum on the north side of the Mansion.

Territorial Women's Memorial Rose Garden at Sharlot Hall

Honoree HULDA (SMITH) DICKINSON-MARSHALL

Submitted by her granddaughter Diana (Moxcey) Rowe

Hulda Susan (Smith) Dickinson Marshall was born on November 2, 1881, in Joplin, Cedar County, Missouri, the daughter of Maurice "Morris" Calvin Adkins and Mary Jane (Bristow) Smith. Her father, who worked a rented farm in Cedar County, set out in April 1886 for the Arizona Territory with his family in a covered wagon on the Santa Fe Trail. They arrived in Flagstaff, Yavapai County, in July 1886. There an elderly man named Mahan allowed them to live on his cattle ranch near Hutch Mountain, not far from Mormon Lake and the present Mahan Mountain. He offered them an empty ranch house to live in. In September they moved south to the Verde Valley, Yavapai County, where Hulda's father rented a house for the winter. According to Hulda, "We moved around a lot in the valley until father bought a piece of land from Mr. Calloway. This was across the river from Camp Verde."

Eventually the whole Smith family—including Hulda's older brothers Edward, Wyatt, Ben, and Maurice and sisters Sarah and Julia—built their home on their new homestead, within view of the bridge and library in Camp Verde. Hulda first attended school in the Middle Verde on the Verde River. Later, she attended the Squaw Peak School in Yavapai County and completed and seventh grade, according to U.S. Census records. (A feature newspaper article celebrating Hulda's 102nd birthday claimed that she completed high school.). Hulda's father was a member of the Dunkard Church, and his children conceivably followed him in his faith. He died at his home on April 16, 1900, of la grippe and old age.

On December 25, 1899, Hulda married Missouri-born Frank Lee Dickinson (1867-1925), a cattleman who had been courting her for some time, in Camp Verde. Frank and his family had also journeyed in a covered wagon to the Verde Valley in the late 1880s, and he became a partner in the Babbitt Cattle Co. in the early 1900s. Shortly after their marriage, Frank and Hulda lived in one of the officers' buildings at Fort Verde. The couple had five children: Vaudrey Samuel Dickinson (b. October 4, 1900, at Fort Verde); Alta Mae (Dickinson) Spooner (b. November 11, 1903); Edward Lee Dickinson (b. February 20, 1906); Frank H. Dickinson, Jr. (b. November 20, 1914); and Helen May (Dickinson) Moxcey (b. May 14, 1917). For a few years Frank served as Deputy Sheriff of Coconino County, when his brother William was Sheriff (c. 1918). The Dickinsons moved to Cottonwood, Yavapai County, in 1920 and lived there until 1930.

About November 1923 Frank became ill with "leakage of the heart" and spent time in Clarkdale convalescing without improvement. After two years of unsuccessful treatment, Frank Dickinson died of dropsy (October 22, 1925), leaving Hulda with eleven-year-old Frank, Jr. and eight-year-old Helen to care for. He had been lauded as a man "of a genial disposition and highly regarded in his home county for honesty and integrity" (Weekly Journal-Miner, October 2, 1918, p. 6). Hulda commented in her recollections at the age of ninety-four that "Frank and I had a good life together."

Four months after Frank's death, on February 26, 1926, Hulda married Arizona-born Ralph Alexander Marshall (1890-1966), a son of one of the early pioneer families in the Verde Valley and a hoisting engineer in the copper mining industry. He was born and reared in Cottonwood, and he had served as a cook in the U.S. Army during World War I (1917-1919). The Marshalls had one daughter, Mattie May (Marshall) Brashears (b. August 27, 1927). In 1930 the family moved to Superior, Pinal County, Arizona, where Ralph worked in the mines. They resided there until 1950. From 1950 to 1953 they lived in Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona. A news article in the Arizona Republic (January 20, 1953, p. 4) reports that they "are now residents of Prescott." In March 1953 Ralph suffered a stroke and was a patient at the Whipple Veterans Hospital in Prescott. By April he was recuperating in their home at 143 S. Marina St. They remained in Prescott through at least August 1955.

Around 1959 Hulda and Ralph moved to Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico, near their daughter, Mattie May. In Albuquerque Ralph suffered an unidentified seven-year-long illness. He died there on March 10, 1966, after which Hulda lived alone and moved back to Arizona, residing in Coolidge, Pinal County, with her daughter Alta Mae.

In the last two years or so of her life, after a fall that left her unable to walk, Hulda resided at the Pinal County Nursing Center in Florence. She died there on December 5, 1985, and was buried at the Valley Memorial Park Cemetery in Coolidge.

Details of the Smith family's journey from Missouri to the Arizona Territory and their early years in the Verde Valley may be found in copies of unidentified news clippings in Hulda's Rose Garden file. Her interviews shed no light on her married life, her religious affiliation (if any), or her social activities. She was a wife, mother, and a homemaker, and almost nothing else is known of her adult life.

Helen (Dickinson) Moxcey - Diana Moxcey – Hulda (Smith) Dickinson



Photo credit Roland Moxcey

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